

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are all the claims pending in the application. The Examiner has rejected claims 10-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,273,352 to Johnson (“Johnson”). The Examiner has also indicated that claims 1-9 and 21-25 are allowable.

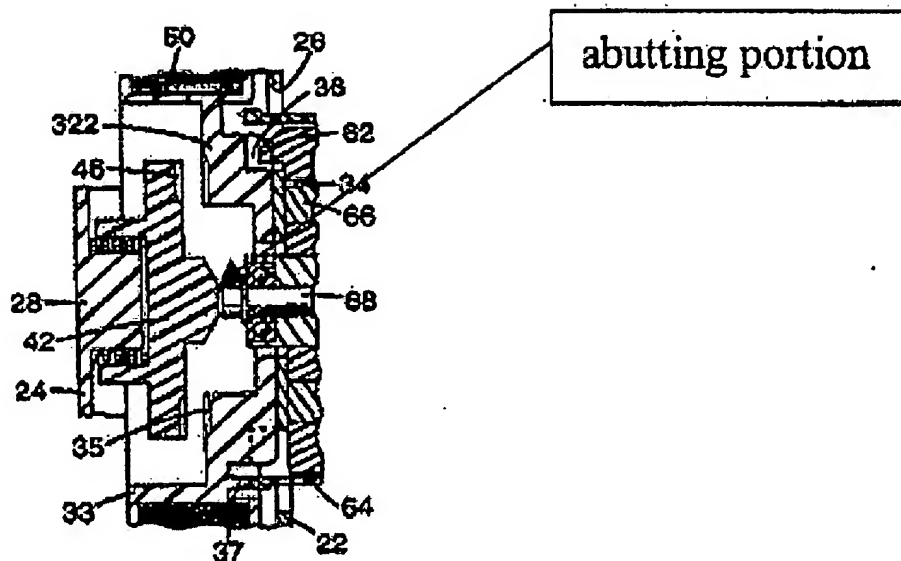
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 10 has been amended as shown above. Applicant respectfully submits that Johnson fails to teach or suggest each limitation of claim 10.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTION

The Examiner has rejected claims 10-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Johnson. Applicant respectfully submits that Johnson fails to teach or suggest each limitation of claims 10-20.

The Examiner asserts that Johnson teaches a tape cartridge as recited in claim 10. The Examiner relies on annotated Fig. 8, reproduced below, to teach the abutting portion recited in Fig. 1. (Office Action at p. 2-3).



However, the portion of Johnson that the Examiner contends teaches the claimed abutting portion does not "abut[] against the rotating member at the time of insertion of the tape cartridge" as recited in claim 10. Further, Johnson's "abutting portion" does not "abut[] against a bottom portion of a recess portion formed at the rotating member for moving the brake member from the locking position to the unlocking position at the time of insertion of the tape cartridge by the abutting surface being pressed by the bottom portion of the recess portion" as recited in claim 10. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Johnson fails to teach each element of claim 10.

As claims 11-20 depend from claim 10, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable over the cited art at least based on this dependency.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 10-20 are patentable over the cited art. As the Examiner has previously indicated that claims 1-9 and 21-25 are allowable, Applicant respectfully submits that each pending claim is now in a condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 2, 2005